

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A microprocessor for targeted fault-tolerant computing, the
5 microprocessor comprising:
decode circuitry configured to decode a fault-tolerant version of an
instruction and a non-fault-tolerant version of the instruction
distinctly from each other; and
execution circuitry configured to execute the fault-tolerant version of the
10 instruction with redundancy checking and to execute the non-fault-
tolerant version of the instruction without redundancy checking.
2. The microprocessor of claim 1, wherein the execution circuitry includes:
a first processing unit configured to receive operand data, execute an
15 operation associated with the instruction; and generate a first
result;
a second processing unit configured to receive the operand data; execute
the operation, and generate a second result;
a comparator configured to compare the first and second results.
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3. The microprocessor of claim 2, wherein for the fault-tolerant version of the
instruction, if the comparison does not match, then repeating the
execution by the processing units and the comparison of results by the
comparator up to a maximum N times until a match occurs.
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4. The microprocessor of claim 3, wherein, if the first and second results
never match, a machine check is performed on the microprocessor.
5. The microprocessor of claim 2, further comprising:
30 a register file configured to provide both the first and second processing
units with the operand data.

6. A method for targeted fault-tolerant computing in a central processing unit (CPU), the method comprising:
decoding a first op code corresponding to a fault-tolerant version of an instruction;
5 decoding a second op code corresponding to a non-fault-tolerant version of the instruction;
executing the first op code with redundancy checking; and
executing the second op code without redundancy checking.
- 10 7. The method of claim 6, wherein a set of multiple instructions is provided in fault-tolerant and non-fault-tolerant versions of each instruction in the set.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the set of instructions includes arithmetic functions.
- 15 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the set of instructions includes logical functions.
10. The method of claim 6, wherein the execution of first op code comprises:
20 providing operand data to a first processing unit;
providing the operand data to a second processing unit;
executing an operation on the operand data by the first processing unit to generate a first result;
executing the operation on the operand data by the second processing
25 unit to generate a second result; and
comparing the first and second results.
11. The method of claim 10, further comprising, if the first and second results do not match, repeating the execution and comparison steps.
- 30 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the repeating continues up to a maximum of N times until the first and second results match.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising, if the first and second results never matched during the N repetitions, performance of a machine check on the CPU.
- 5 14. A computing apparatus for targeted fault-tolerant computing, the apparatus comprising:
means for decoding a first op code corresponding to a fault-tolerant version of an instruction and a second op code corresponding to a non-fault-tolerant version of the instruction;
10 redundant means for executing the first op code; and
non-redundant means for executing the second op code.
- 15 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the redundant means comprises:
a first processing unit configured to receive operand data, execute an operation associated with the first op code; and generate a first result;
a second processing unit configured to receive the operand data; execute the operation, and generate a second result;
a comparator configured to compare the first and second results.
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16. A computer program product comprising a computer-usable medium having computer-readable code embodied therein, the computer program product including:
a first type of computer-readable instructions to be executed with
25 redundancy checking; and
a second type of computer-readable instructions to be executed non-redundantly.
17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the first type of
30 computer-readable instructions includes fault-tolerant arithmetic instructions.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the second type of computer-readable instructions includes non-fault-tolerant arithmetic instructions.
- 5 19. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the first type of computer-readable instructions includes fault-tolerant logical functions
20. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the second type of computer-readable instructions includes non-fault-tolerant logical
10 instructions.
21. The method of claim 11, further comprising, if the first and second results do not match, logging a comparison error.